

Today, more than 47 million Americans, including 9 million children, lack health insurance. Last year, nearly two-thirds of U.S. adults struggled to pay medical bills, went without needed care because of costs, or were uninsured. Nearly 9 million people have lost their health insurance since 2000. This is unacceptable. In fact, in the richest nation in the world, it's absolutely shameful.

Countless Americans lay awake at night trying to figure out how they will pay mounting medical bills, whether they should go to the doctor for that recurring pain, or wondering if their health insurance will actually cover tests their doctor recommended. With soaring gas and food prices, working families across the United States are forced to make tough financial choices, often sacrificing needed health care and health insurance.

It is reality for Laura T. whose son Christopher was diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma in 2003. Though this family had insurance, the insurer refused to cover the treatments proven to help Christopher. No mother should ever have to fight with an insurance company for the life of her child, but that's exactly what this brave woman did. Laura fought these insurance companies and won. Because he received the appropriate treatments, Christopher is alive today. However, months of fighting for her child's life took a tremendous toll on her family. Laura and her three children lost their home. Her credit is ruined. Unfortunately, Laura and her family are not alone. Even more unfortunate is the fact that these families don't always win. Families across America are dealing with these situations every day.

While there are several issues that we disagree on, I am confident that we can all agree that no parent should have to fight for the medical treatment necessary for her child's survival. No family should have to forego needed health care because of money. Health care should not be a privilege to be reserved for the wealthy few. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together and fix our Nation's broken health care system.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the AMT Relief Act of 2008 and urge my colleagues to do the same.

While I would prefer to eliminate the AMT entirely—and pay for it when we do—the fact of the matter is that failing to act on this legislation would subject over twenty-five million families—including nearly 335,000 in my congressional district—to an additional tax burden they were never intended to bear. Moreover, having recently visited with IRS Commissioner Shulman, there is no question that the IRS is better able to do its job and the taxpayers are best served when Congress completes its tax-related work in a timely fashion.

I am especially pleased that H.R. 7005 also includes legislation I introduced on a bipartisan basis with Congressmen RICHARD NEAL (D-MA), SAM JOHNSON (R-TX) and JIM RAMSTAD (R-MN) to correct the equally unin-

tended and all too frequently devastating treatment of incentive stock options under the Alternative Minimum tax. The AMT Credit Fairness and Relief Act will end the ISO AMT crisis once and for all by allowing affected taxpayers to claim the entirety of their unused credits over the next two years and abating all penalties and interest arising from this particularly egregious part of the code.

Madam Speaker, the AMT Relief Act of 2008 is vital middle class tax relief designed to correct several widely acknowledged defects in our tax law. I look forward to its passage and encourage its prompt consideration in the Senate so that it can be signed by the President without delay.

HONORING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF JED AND JOYCE ROBERTSON

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize two of my constituents, Jed and Joyce Robertson, who this Sunday will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Jed Robertson moved to Omaha in 1958 after attending trade school. Joyce followed him, and that same year they married and moved to Valley as newlyweds.

Jed and Joyce represent the hardworking stability of good Midwesterners. The same year they were married they hosted their first Thanksgiving dinner for their extended family. Jed and Joyce have continued that tradition by hosting Thanksgiving dinner every year since, and this November they will follow their 50th wedding anniversary with their 50th Thanksgiving dinner.

In their years together, Jed and Joyce raised two children, Kim and Kirk, and are blessed with four grandchildren: Meghan, Matt, Jeremy and JC.

Today I want to honor this great accomplishment that represents not only their love together but the values of Nebraska I'm proud to represent in Congress.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009.

1. Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDTE), Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: RF Micro Devices (RFMD).

Address of Requesting Entity: 7628 Thorn-dike Road, Greensboro, NC 27409-9421.

Description of Request: Original request for additional funding of \$3 million for Air Force RDT&E account for Gallium Nitride, GaN, Microelectronics & Materials research and development. Gallium Nitride-based microelectronics is the next generation of semiconductor technology and is of critical importance to the development of many advanced defense systems. RFMD Aerospace and Defense Business Unit will be the recipient of the funding and use the funds to accelerate development and adoption of RFMD GaN technology. RFMD originally budgeted \$18 million over 3 years to complete this research project; RFMD will invest far more of its own money in Gallium Nitride-related research than it is seeking from the Federal Government—investing more than \$100 million on the research and development of Gallium Nitride technology, and is continuing to invest.

2. Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDTE), Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: RF Micro Devices (RFMD).

Address of Requesting Entity: 7628 Thorn-dike Road, Greensboro, NC 27409-9421.

Description of Request: Original request for additional funding of \$3 million for Navy RDT&E account for Gallium Nitride, GaN, Microelectronics & Materials research and development. Gallium Nitride-based microelectronics is the next generation of semiconductor technology and is of critical importance to the development of many advanced defense systems. RFMD Aerospace and Defense Business Unit will be the recipient of the funding and use the funds to accelerate development and adoption of RFMD GaN technology. RFMD originally budgeted \$18 million over 3 years to complete this research project; RFMD will invest far more of its own money in Gallium Nitride-related research than it is seeking from the Federal Government—investing more than \$100 million on the research and development of Gallium Nitride technology, and is continuing to invest.

3. Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDTE), Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 5440 Millstream Road, McLeansville, NC 27301.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,600,000 to support the Autonomous Anti-Submarine Vertical Beam Array developed by General Dynamics Information Systems, Inc. These funds will be used to develop a vertical acoustic array small enough to launch from a nuclear guided missile submarine, SSGN, that will operate for 3 months as an antisubmarine warfare, ASW, detection system and transmit data over a secure radio frequency data link. Specifically, \$514,000 is for design and development labor; \$185,000 is for materials; \$4,000 is for ODC and travel; \$55,000 is for the subcontract; \$726,000 is for manufacturing; and \$116,000 is for program management. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Navy's RDTE account.

4. Requesting Member: Congressman HOWARD COBLE.